Indian Children as Jockeys for Camel Racing

1256. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new UN Report on Child Labour says that young children from India are still being sold as jockeys for camel racing in the Gulf countries or as young brides to oldermen of Saudi Arabia;

(b) if so, the facts in this regards; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c). The UNICEF has recently brought out a report on the progress of nations with regard to child welfare, but it does not refer to the subject matter of the question. However, there have been a few instances in the past which have come to Government's notice regarding young Indian children being used as jockeys for camel racing or as young brides to older men in some Gulf countries. Government have taken steps to prevent such instances by closely scrutinising visa and passport applications and denying these facilities to persons suspected of indulging in such practices. Government proposes to continue these steps.

[Translation]

Medical College

1257. SHRI G.M. KUNTURKAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Post Graduate Studies could not be introduced in Medical College, Nanded (Maharashtra) so far even though the college has already completed five academic sessions;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI) : (a) to (c). The Government of Maharashtra has not sent any proposal seeking the permission of the Central Government for starting of post graduate courses in Medical College, Nanded under the provisions of Indian Medical Council Act, 1956.

[English]

Research Projects undertaken by Centre for Studies in Social Science, Calcutta

1258. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the Research Projects undertaken by the Centre of Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta during 1990 to 1995;

(b) whether there is any Projects which is lying incomplete; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c). According to the information furnished by the Centre for Studies in Social Science, Calcutta, 27 research projects were started and completed during 1990-95. The total number of projects, however completed during 1990-95 is 48. While the projects undertaken till 1993 have been completed, 15 projects begun in 1994 and 1995, are yet to be completed.

[Translation]

Schemes for Welfare of Women

1259. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the schemes being launched by the Union Government for the welfare of women; and

(b) the names of such schemes and position thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Government of India has not approved any new Central or Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Women's Development during 1996-97.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Indian Labourers in Saudi Arabia, UAE and Iraq

1260. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that Indian labourers working in Saudi Arabia, UAE and Iraq have been posing great problems due to their behaviour; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard, so far?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) No, Sir. Indian workers in these countries are generally regarded as law abiding and hard-working.

(b) Does not arise.

Anti-India Broadcasting

1261. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Embassy in Washington had